

NSF PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK

Introduction

Per the GPRA Modernization Act of 2010, this chapter, together with the Overview, contains basic information about NSF's mission, strategic plan, and priority goals, as well as NSF's Annual Performance Plan for FY 2016 and Annual Performance Report and Strategic Objective Progress Updates for FY 2014. Information about NSF's performance can also be found on performance.gov, which is updated quarterly with information about Agency and Cross-Agency Priority Goal achievement, and on the NSF site in the Performance and Financial Highlights Report.¹

This Request highlights NSF's priorities for crosscutting investments and organizational efficiencies. NSF's Performance Plan for FY 2016 underscores the agency's overall priorities. In FY 2016, NSF continues its strategic monitoring of key program, infrastructure, and management investments. Together with NSF's longstanding performance goal to make timely award decisions, these performance goals provide the foundation of NSF's Performance Plan. The FY 2016 Plan also includes goals that focus on responsible stewardship of facility construction, virtual merit review panels, data-driven management reviews, and diversity and inclusion.

Strategic Plan and Strategic Objectives

Investing in Science, Engineering, and Education for the Nation's Future: NSF Strategic Plan for 2014 – 2018 lays out two strategic goals that embody the dual nature of NSF's mission to advance the progress of science while benefitting the Nation: *Transform the Frontiers of Science and Engineering* and *Stimulate Innovation and Address Societal Needs through Research and Education*.¹ A third goal, *Excel as a Federal Science Agency*, directs NSF to hold itself accountable for achieving excellence in carrying out its mission. This goal structure enables NSF to link its investments to longer-term outcomes. To bridge the gap between these strategic goals and measurable outputs, the Strategic Plan establishes a set of strategic objectives for each strategic goal (see next page).

Cross-Agency Priority Goals

NSF contributes to Cross-Agency Priority (CAP) Goals which relate closely to its mission, such as the CAP goal supporting Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Education. Per the GPRA Modernization Act requirement to address CAP Goals in the agency Strategic Plan, the Annual Performance Plan, and the Annual Performance Report, please refer to www.performance.gov for more on the agency's contributions to those goals and progress, where applicable.

¹ www.nsf.gov/about/performance

2014-2018 NSF Strategic Framework

Strategic Goal	Strategic Objectives
<p>G1: Transform the Frontiers of Science and Engineering</p>	<p>O1: Invest in fundamental research to ensure significant continuing advances across science, engineering, and education.</p> <p>O2: Integrate education and research to support development of a diverse STEM workforce with cutting-edge capabilities.</p> <p>O3: Provide world-class research infrastructure to enable major scientific advances.</p>
<p>G2: Stimulate Innovation and Address Societal Needs through Research and Education</p>	<p>O1: Strengthen the links between fundamental research and societal needs through investments and partnerships.</p> <p>O2: Build the capacity of the Nation to address societal challenges using a suite of formal, informal, and broadly available STEM educational mechanisms.</p>
<p>G3: Excel as a Federal Science Agency</p>	<p>O1: Build an increasingly diverse, engaged, and high-performing workforce by fostering excellence in recruitment, training, leadership, and management of human capital.</p> <p>O2: Use effective methods and innovative solutions to achieve excellence in accomplishing the agency's mission.</p>